Dear Harold,

Sept. 28,1990

Thanks so much for your recent letters. I was moved by the letter from the University of Wisconsin professor about his Marine son. As much as I would grudgingly admit the necessity of putting a stop to Saddam Hussein, I could sympathize with the critical comments he made in that letter, particularly his observation that Bush has never shown much commitment to anything other than his political advancement. And the Hoagland article "...And the Tale of a Transcript", you sent in your most recent letter was very depressing. Aside from the articles you have sent, along with some of your analysis, I have heard virtually nothing of this intelligence failure.If true, it certainly makes a mockery of the high and mighty stance we have taken in this crisis. And no matter how this crisis is resolved I have a feeling that this intelligence failure will be ignored, just as some of our most egregious errors in Vietnam seemed to have been forgotten.

On another subject, I read with interest your recollections of your efforts on behalf of Ray to get him a hearing. Regarding the Memphis files, I continue to work at them slowly. My teaching responsibilities take up the bulk of my time now, but I am still hoping to have gotten through all of them before January when I will begin teaching that special course. Another thing that has slowed me up is reading Taylor Branch's Parting the Waters which is beautifully written and very insightful. I am just in awe of the courage of many of those black civil rights workers. A couple of weeks ago I wrote to the black student association at Wofford and sent them a sample of some of the documents students will be studying. The president is a student I have had in a couple of my courses. I haven't heard anything back from them, but I hope my effort has stirred some interest. I have had a few meetings with my history colleague and I believe he is beginning to see the problems withMelanson and what should be the proper focus of this course. Unfortunately, it seems to me he just does not read very much or read very carefully.

Thanks also for keeping me informed on the Ricky White fraud. A former student of mine who is now in the graduate program at the University of Texas in anthropology has sent me some of the articles from the local papers. With the 28th anniversary of the assassination approaching it is possible I may be called on to say something about this.

Hanh-Trang and the kids are well. Claire is a lot busier this year in third grade. She has developed more of an interest in science. Hanh-Trang will be changing jobs soon. She is taking a full-time position with a dialysis clinic in town.

I hope you are well and please give our regards to Lillian.

Yours,

Gary